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RECOMMENDED ARTICLES

In this issue of the journal, recommended articles are selected from the Korean Journal of Acupuncture (ISSN: 2287-3368) published in Korean and from the Journal of Pharmacopuncture (ISSN: 2093-6966) published in English.

(1) Korean Journal of Acupuncture Vol. 30, No. 1, pp. 9-15, 2013

Comprehension of Life in Korean Medicine

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Abstract

Objectives: The world welcomes the new paradigm of integrative medicine in which Western medicine and traditional medicine co-exist. Thus, the purpose of this study was to identify the definitions of Life used in the knowledge systems of both Western and Korean science, including biomedicine.

Methods: This study addressed the interpretation of Life in Korean medical history. To that end, various medical data on and medical documents about Life were collected from medical textbooks and texts on ancient Korean medicine.

Results: The most important issue in both Western and Korean medicine is Life even though there are many opinions and conflicts about the view of Life between those medical cultures. The basic concepts of Life are not different between the two cultures, even though they address the concept of Life differently using different terminologies. Integrative medicine has emphasized the therapeutic relationship between practitioner and patient, as determined by evidence, and makes use of all appropriate therapies. Integrative medicine claims to be a kind of medicine in which various medical systems can be focused on the human being.

Conclusions: Because the early therapeutic medical categories of Korean medicine were based on Dao, Korean medicine has to focus on the interactive relationship between mind and body and on the attributes of the future public health care system.

Keywords: life; Korean medicine; Western medicine; integrative medicine

(2) Korean Journal of Acupuncture Vol. 30, No. 1, pp. 16-20, 2013

Consideration of the Effectiveness of Moxibustion and Acupuncture for the Treatment of Fetal Breech Presentation

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Abstract

Objectives: The objective of this study is to report the efficacy of acupuncture and moxibustion for the treatment of fetal breech presentation.

Methods: We searched papers in PubMed by using the keywords "breech and moxibustion" and "breech and acupuncture". The search range included randomized clinical trials (RCTs), controlled clinical trials (CCTs), case reports, and case series. Each original article had to have an abstract in English. Finally, 7 RCTs out of 102 papers were included in this review.

Results: Of the seven RCTs, five trials held that moxibustion or acupuncture at BL67 produced a positive effect for the correction of breech presentation, one trial indicated no beneficial effect, and one trial had no conclusion owing to the unsatisfactory compliance record of the participants.

Conclusions: Acupuncture and moxibustion may be effective in correcting fetal breech presentation. In this regard, related clinical research is worth pursuing.

Keywords: breech presentation; moxibustion; acupuncture; Korean medicine; delivery

(3) Korean Journal of Acupuncture Vol. 30, No. 1, pp. 27-36, 2013

The Review on the Study of Bee Venom in the Journals of Korean Medicine

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Abstract

Objectives: The focus of this study was changes in research pertaining to bee venom over time.

Methods: We collected 365 articles on bee venom from the OASIS system by using the keywords 'bee venom, apitoxin, apitherapy, bee sting'. We determined the number and the percentage of theses according to year, study method, journal, and subject.

Results: Of the 365 bee venom papers published in the Journal of Korean Medicine from 1976, the 205 studies associated with bee-venom clinical trials outnumbered other types of studies by a ratio of 1.3 to 1; that Journal also included 138 experimental papers and 22 literature studies. In the 205 papers associated with bee venom in clinical trials, lumbar disorders were addressed in 38 papers, upper limb disorders in 35 papers, and systemic diseases in 34 papers, followed by fewer papers addressing other disorders. When the 138 experimental papers were classified according to subject, 16 papers addressed pain reduction, 14 addressed apoptosis and anticancer effects, 13 addressed anti-inflammatory effects, and 11 addressed effects in treating arthritis, followed by fewer papers addressing other effects.

Conclusions: Bee venom is a treatment method based on the unique theory of Korean traditional medicine. The efforts, as well as the academic approaches used, to investigate bee venom are expected to produce positive results through numerous research works.

Keywords: Bee venom; Korean medicine; systemic review

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(4) Journal of Pharmacopuncture, Vol. 16, No.1, pp.37~42, 2013

Effect of Geumgoeshingi-Whan Pharmacopuncture on the Blood Pressure in Spontaneously Hypertensive Rats

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Abstract

Objective: The aim of this experiment was to investigate the effect and the mechanism of Geumgoeshingi-whan (GGSGW) Pharmacopuncture at the acupoint GV 4 on the blood pressure in spontaneously hypertensive rats (SHR).

Methods: SHR were injected with normal saline solution (Control-SHR group) or GGSGW Pharmacopuncture (GGSGW-SHR group) at the acupoint GV 4. The systolic arterial blood pressure and renal parameters were measured for two weeks.